



from the desk of
REPRESENTATIVE DAN LEONARD

Dear Neighbor,

Looking ahead not back is my motto for District 50 as we begin emerging out of the economic recession and finding ways to re-grow our state and communities.

I wanted to re-grow our state by getting unemployed Hoosiers back to work with jobs. During session we accomplished that goal by delaying one of the largest tax increases on businesses in the history of Indiana. The one year delay of unemployment insurance premium increases will free up capital, and I hope it will allow employers to hire unemployed Hoosiers. In addition I hope to bring new construction jobs through the legislation that I helped pass to build the Illiana Expressway, connecting interstate 65 in Northwestern Indiana with an interstate in Illinois.

Re-growth is not just happening state-wide, it is happening right here in our own community. In Whitely County, a \$2.9 million grant is being used to update Highway 205 to four lanes. In Huntington, a \$2.5 million grant will be used to update Etna Ave. Another \$500,000 grant is helping Mt. Etna build a new fire station.

I look forward to the continued re-growth of our state and communities as we continue looking ahead...not back.

Sincerely,

Rep. Dan Leonard



200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

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STATEHOUSE OFFICE

1-800-382-9841

317- 232-9824

E-MAIL ADDRESS

h50@in.gov

E-NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

www.in.gov/h50

MAILING ADDRESS

200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DAN LEONARD

CREATING HOOSIER JOBS



I voted for legislation that authorizes the use of public-private partnerships for the construction of the Illiana Expressway in Northwest Indiana and the Ohio River Bridges project in Southern Indiana. These two projects have the potential to create more than 10,000 jobs. Other job friendly legislation I voted for was the New Employer Tax Credit which allows new businesses that locate in Indiana starting January 1, 2010 to receive a tax credit for two years equal to 10% of the wages paid for each newly created job. I will continue to support initiatives that make Indiana an attractive environment for job growth.



CRACKING DOWN ON DEADBEAT PARENTS AT CASINOS

I voted to help families collect some of the \$2 billion in yearly unpaid child support payments. Individuals who win a certain amount of money at Indiana casinos will have their names checked against a database that contains deadbeat parents who have not paid child support. If their name appears in the system the amount they owe would be subtracted from their winnings and paid to help support their child.

CONTROLLING SPENDING



Another focus I had this session was to make certain that there would be no new tax increases. Unlike Washington, D.C., I believe the State of Indiana is making prudent fiscal decisions. In my opinion, it is simply not an option to raise Hoosier taxes due to our state government's budget shortcomings. We first must live within our means.

Increasing taxes should never be our first resort, but rather our last. I was thrilled that there were no new taxes passed this session.

"In my opinion... we first must live within our means."



PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

I voted for legislation that I believe will help Hoosiers to protect themselves on the commute to and from work. Starting July 1, most employers will be prohibited from having policies that prevent their employees from keeping a legally owned firearm locked in their vehicle while they are at work. Governmental units will also be prohibited from denying a licensed gun owner their 2nd Amendment right during a time of a declared emergency. Additionally, I voted to keep certain personal information about Hoosiers with licenses to carry a handgun confidential.



HELPING HOOSIER FARMERS

I voted to save Hoosier farmers nearly \$20 million on their property tax bills in 2011 by improving the system for assessing farm land. Farm land assessments will now be based on an adjusted six-year average that eliminates the highest value over the six-year period.



SUPPORTING SCHOOL FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

I voted to help schools redirect up to \$60 million to help fill gaps that came as a result of the state funding reductions. I believe this additional money will help with teacher job retention during these difficult economic times.

